

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 8, 1999

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 8, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of William W. Reid, Jr.:

O God of every nation, of every race and land, redeem Your whole creation, with Your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife torn world. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING H. CON. RES. 42, PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN KOSOVO

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the plan of the Committee on Rules with respect to House Concurrent Resolution 42 regarding peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, which was introduced in the House today.

I have also informed the House today of the plans of the Committee on Rules by a "Dear Colleague" letter.

The Committee on Rules is expected to meet on Wednesday, March 10, to grant a rule for House Concurrent Resolution 42 which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments to be preprinted would need to be signed by the Member and submitted to the Speaker's table. Amendments should be drafted to the resolution as introduced in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Committee on Rules or to testify as long as the amendments comply with House rules.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 5, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 710(a)(2) of Public Law 105-277, I hereby appoint the following individuals to the Parents Advisory Council on Youth Drug Abuse: Ms. Marilyn Bader of St. Louis, MO for one year term;

Mr. J. Tracy Wiecking of Farmington, MO for two year term.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY TROUBLESOME

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration's poor handling of known nuclear espionage efforts by China might prove to be an interesting and new story line for a Tom Clancy novel, but in my mind it has become potentially the "Apocalypse Now," part two.

I find it troubling that it took 18 months for this administration to take

necessary action after reports of espionage and security breaches came to light, and I am outraged that background check waivers continued to be granted for suspect foreign visitors in light of the reported espionage.

Can we realistically expect to maintain our technological expertise when supercomputers and satellite innovations are offered up without proper restrictions?

Mr. Speaker, our military is already in trouble due to the financial shortfalls and cuts this administration has placed on it. Now other countries have classified information and U.S. nuclear technology, all of which could directly impact our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back this administration's national security policy before it becomes apocalypse now.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 42, PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN KOSOVO RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Speaker, I have today introduced H. Con. Res. 42, the "Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo Resolution".

The purpose of this resolution is to afford an opportunity for the House of Representatives to participate in the decision whether to deploy U.S. Armed Forces to Kosovo to implement the peace agreement now being negotiated at Rambouillet, France. The Congress has a constitutional responsibility with respect to deployments of U.S. Armed Forces into potentially hostile situations, and the Speaker and I believe that debating and voting on this resolution is an appropriate way for the Congress to begin to carry out this responsibility.

Some Members of Congress have serious reservations about deploying U.S. Armed Forces to Kosovo as peacekeepers. Others strongly support the President's policy. In an effort to give the benefit of the doubt to our President, the test of this resolution does not criticize or oppose the proposed deployment to Kosovo. To the contrary, it states that "[t]he President is authorized to deploy United States Armed Forces personnel to Kosovo as part of a NATO peacekeeping operation implementing a Kosovo peace agreement."